



Critical Friends School Visits

What are Critical Friends School Visits?

Based on feedback from schools, and in an effort to increase connectedness and collaboration across the charter school sector, we are excited to partner with the Achievement Network to offer Critical Friends School Visits. These visits are an opportunity for host schools to get ideas and feedback from a team of other school leaders and for visitors to see the work that peers are doing. In advance of the visit, host schools will complete a limited amount of pre-work to provide context for the team of visits and ensure the team is focused on the things that are most helpful for the school. Visitors will spend the visit observing in classrooms looking for evidence to help the host school with their identified top priorities. The day will end with a debrief where the visitors will share their observations with the host school team.

Why Participate in a Critical Friends Visit?

- Strengthen connections across the region's charter schools, created by shared experiences.
- Share resources between schools.
- Solve problems collaboratively.
- Help other schools (and your school)

Example Schedule

- I. Setting the Stage - Context, Framing, and Document Review (8:00 - 8:30)
- II. School Walkthrough and Classroom Observations (8:30 - 11:30)
- III. Lunch and Visitor Note Collection (11:30 - 12:00)
- IV. Visit Debrief (12:00 - 1:00)

Next Steps

Email Jon at jthatcher@nycharters.net if you are interested in participating as a visitor or having your school host a visit. If you are interested in your school hosting a visit, provide three dates that work for your school